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1. ActionAid

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of ActionAid are outlined in its mission and values statements which form the basis of its strategy "Fighting poverty together", which reads "We aim to work with poor and marginalized people to eradicate poverty by overcoming the injustice and inequity that cause it. Our purpose is to address the root causes of poverty at all levels; promote basic rights; work increasingly in partnership and alliance; tackle constraints imposed by national and international institutions; comment more closely with national and local governments; influence attitudes, policies and practices for poverty eradication."

ActionAid works in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, plus five cross-border initiatives in Africa and Asia. Plans are in hand to open a new programme in Nigeria in 1999, and it also plans to open a programme in Zambia in March 2000.

Funding for its activities relies mostly on sponsorship. However, it is also funded by grants from the European Union, the World Bank, foundations and emergency appeal funds, among others.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

Since its Rwanda country programme was started in March 1997, the Rwanda Director has met with the UNAIDS Executive Director and presented key issues on HIV/AIDS in Rwanda from the perspective of non-governmental organizations, at a meeting which included Rwanda governmental ministers. The ActionAid Rwanda programme is currently setting up an NGO forum on HIV/AIDS in Rwanda in consultation with UNAIDS. The UNESCO resident representative recently attended the last day of an education training meeting in Rwanda and has agreed to working with ActionAid.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

ActionAid collaborates extensively with the United Nations globally as summarized briefly below:

UNDP. In November 1997 a seminar on participatory project management was organized by ActionAid Pakistan in collaboration with UNDP to share information and exchange views on formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. ActionAid Nepal teamed up with UNDP in 1997-1998 to build a common understanding on poverty between non-governmental organizations and Governments, entitled the Poverty Working Group. ActionAid is working with UNDP in Kenya on developing the Charter for Social Integration as a bill for Parliament. ActionAid plans to co-host an NGO preparatory meeting in March 1999, with logistical, facilitation, translation and interpretation assistance given by UNDP. ActionAid works with UNDP in Kenya as a partner to promote good governance, empowerment and human rights approaches to development. ActionAid Ethiopia, with other non-governmental organizations, is engaged in a collaborative research project on poverty and economic reform, in part funded by UNDP. In addition its Ethiopia staff points out that UNDP has been more than just a funding partner — it has been a collaborator in policy dialogues.

UNESCO. A research study on education for all is being conducted by ActionAid Pakistan, developed by UNESCO.

UNICEF. ActionAid Pakistan is involved in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference on gender processes and continues informal contacts with the UNDP gender units and with UNICEF. ActionAid Nepal and UNICEF are members of a broad-based alliance working on issues of bonded labour. The ActionAid Nepal staff also teamed up with UNICEF and the ILO in a study on child labour in 1998, and was also part of the steering team of the research study. Similarly in the same year a national study was done by Tribhuban University. ActionAid Nepal was a member of the steering committee, with financial support being provided by the ILO. The ActionAid international education team is liasing with UNICEF on issues of early childhood development.

UNCHS. ActionAid is also working with UNCHS (Habitat) in Kenya on issues of waste disposal and lobbying for inclusion in the Manual Pit

Exhaustion project of Habitat. Its Karibangi programme is also a member of the hosting committee for the UNCHS conference to be held in Nairobi later this year. ActionAid Kenya has also initiated discussions with UNCHS on collaborating on issues in informal settlements in Mombasa.

Other relevant links and activities

UNDP. ActionAid UK maintains ongoing linkages through the UNDP NGO Liaison Officer in Geneva. Its Northern Affairs Unit is working with the UNDP Office of Development Studies on the future of the aid agenda.

UNESCO. The International Education Unit has extensive links with the Education For All secretariat of UNESCO. ActionAid is a key player in the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All, a UNESCO committee.

UNICEF. The Rwanda director visited the in-country UNICEF programme coordinator and the education project officer to discuss funding issues.

UNHCR. The Rwanda director visited UNHCR a few times to discuss funding issues with the resident representative and other senior officials.

Publications. *External Influences Over Poverty in Malawi* (forthcoming); *Beyond Crisis Management: Southern Perspectives on the Future of Debt* (June 1998); *Voting for a Fairer World?: Parliamentary Opinion on International Development*: An ActionAid analysis (May 1998); *In Whose Benefit?: The Case for Untying Aid* (April 1998).

In the pipeline for the coming year are publications on an assessment of sanctions against Burundi; patents and food security: options for research and action; WTO and food security: opportunities for action; and the reality of aid, 1998-1999.

2. African Society of International and Comparative Law

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The African Society of International and Comparative Law was established in 1986 as a result of the feeling by some African lawyers that there is the need to form an association in order to learn from each other and to come to understand each other's systems (the common law and the civil law) better. It was also felt that there was need to coordinate efforts to enhance the African contribution to international law and to promote respect and understanding for international law. The Society is a non-political and non-governmental organization and now has a worldwide membership of about 2,000. There have been no changes in the Society's status as a non-governmental organization.

Activities since 1995

In order to achieve its aims, the Society has been conducting several projects. The relevant ones are described below.

The Society's representative in Geneva participated in several meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in 1997 and 1998.

The Society's annual conference, held in an African country, is always communicated to the United Nations Secretary-General who usually sends a representative. In 1995 the theme of the annual conference was "The contribution of the United Nations and its agencies to the maintenance of international peace". The then Secretary-General was represented by the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa. The 1997 annual conference was held in Abidjan, and the Secretary-General was represented by Ambassador Dinka. At the 1998 annual conference, held in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General was represented by the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Secretary-General sent a goodwill message to the 1999 annual conference.

Publications

In order to promote the activities of the United Nations and its agencies, the Society includes documents and articles on the United Nations in its publications.

The African Journal of International and Comparative Law, is the first bilingual (English/French) legal journal in Africa and is in its eleventh year of publication. Samples of articles published in the *Journal* are given below.

1995

"The Preamble to the United Nations Charter: the Contribution of Jan Smuts", by Christof Heyns (vol. 7, 1995, p. 329); "Le respect du principe de non-intervention par les forces de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies (Cas de l'ONUC et l'ONUSOM)", par Mutoy Mubiala (vol. 7, 1995, p. 158); "Reform of the United Nations system in the context of the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development", by J. S. Warioba (vol. 7, 1995, p. 426); Economic and Social Council: resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its Fifty-first Session on Zaire, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi and Rwanda (vol. 7, 1995, p. 189); "Agreement relating to the implementation of part XI of the Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 445); "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 683); International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: rules of procedure and evidence" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 693); Security Council resolutions 997 (1995), 1011 (1995), and 1013 (1995) (vol. 7, 1995).

1996

"La mission des Nations Unies pour l'assistance au Rwanda (1993-1996)", par Mutoy Mubiala (vol. 8, 1996, p. 393); "Fiftieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice", by H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali (vol. 8, 1996, p. 539); "La place de la Cour internationale de justice dans le système général de maintien de la paix institué par la Charte des Nations Unies", par Mohammed Bedjaoui (vol. 8, 1996, p. 541); "1996 and all that: the South-West African judgment revisted in the East Timor case", by John Dugard (vol. 8, 1996, p. 549); "Decolonisation in the International Court of Justice", by Shabtai Rosenne (vol. 8, 1996, p. 564); "The role of the International Court of Justice in the maintenance of international peace", by Dapo Akande (vol. 8, 1996, p. 592).

1997

"L'ONU et la protection des droits de l'homme", par J. D. Dougan-Beacá (vol. 9, 1997, p. 311); "General Assembly resolution 51/59, on action against corruption" (vol. 9, 1997, p. 677); "General Assembly resolution 51/191, containing the Declaration Against Corruption and Bribery in International Business Transactions" (vol. 9, 1997, p. 685).

1998

United Nations, "Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (vol. 10, p. 549); International Tribunal for Rwanda, "Rules of procedure and evidence" (vol. 10, p. 767); "The Prosecutor v. Jean Kambanda" (vol. 10, p. 836); Tenth annual conference, Addis Ababa, 3-5 August 1998. Theme: "The OAU at 35: achievements and prospects".

1999

Security Council, "Statement of the President on Somalia" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 211); "Les mesures prises par le Conseil de Sécurité contre les entités non-étatiques", par Farid Wahid Dahmane (vol. 11, 1999, p. 227); "International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: some comments on the M/V Saiga case" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 333); "The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: summary of the judgment in the Jean-Paul Akayesu case" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 336).

3. American Council for Voluntary International Action

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The mission of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction) is to enhance the effectiveness and professional capacities of its 160 United States-based non-profit member organizations engaged in international humanitarian efforts in 150 countries outside the United States. From 1995 to 1998, InterAction's United Nations activities focused on two major areas: humanitarian assistance, and social and economic development.

Participation in and follow-up to the conferences on economic and social development

InterAction and its members were active in the three United Nations global development conferences. A delegation of member agencies played a significant leadership role at the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), and members also attended the World Conference on Social Development (1995).

InterAction, through its Commission on the Advancement of Women, places special emphasis on promoting gender equity in the policies and practices of member agencies as well as in national and international development and humanitarian assistance organizations. Therefore, InterAction was extensively involved in the Fourth World Conference on Women. Prior to the Conference, over half of the InterAction membership, about 80 agencies, participated in the preparatory committees in New York and in Latin America, Europe and Africa to contribute to the Platform for Action. In order to expand participation of southern non-governmental organizations, the Commission provided grants to 23 women non-governmental organization leaders from Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia to attend NGO Forums and United Nations preparatory committees. In cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development, the Commission on the Advancement of Women also provided three $50,000 sub-grants to organize regional NGO Forums in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

The staff of the Commission on the Advancement of Women, along with 200 representatives from member agencies, attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995. The Commission had convened advocacy training workshops in six countries prior to the Conference and continued the training at the NGO Forum in Beijing. Many in attendance in Beijing had been in contact with the InterAction Commission prior to the Conference through the Commission's newsletter, *Mobilizing for Beijing*. The quarterly newsletter, which was printed in both English and Spanish, was a source of United Nations updates and conference topics for non-governmental organizations. At the Conference, InterAction coordinated the non-governmental organization effort to document governmental commitments for implementing the Platform for Action.

In 1996, after the Conference, the InterAction Commission and its members continued to promote the work done in Beijing through the Commitments Campaign and through Women's Eyes on the World Bank. The Commitments Campaign was designed to keep track of the implementation of commitments that were made in Beijing, while Women's Eyes on the World Bank aimed to ensure that gender was integrated into Bank operations.

In 1996, 1997 and 1998, Commission staff and member agency representatives attended the annual meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. At the 1998 session, InterAction sponsored an "evening dialogue" on women and armed conflict with the Division on the Advancement of Women, which presented a discussion on issues in the former Yugoslavia, Colombia, Sri Lanka and Rwanda. After each meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, the InterAction Commission disseminated the outcomes of the meeting to members and affiliates through InterAction's newsletter *Monday Developments*, formal gatherings and e-mail distribution services.

The InterAction Commission has also worked closely with other United Nations agencies, including UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR. Staff from several of these agencies have attended Commission training workshops; meetings have been held, and information exchanged.

Humanitarian assistance

InterAction's Disaster Response Committee (DRC) maintained an intimate relationship with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. Monthly meetings, co-sponsored by InterAction and the Department, were held at the Secretariat, during which information on specific crises, as well as issues of policy, were discussed among InterAction members, other invited non-governmental organizations, and members of the Department and other United Nations agencies engaged in disaster response. Under-Secretaries-General Hanson, Akashi and Viera de Mello met with InterAction members in Washington, D.C. when invited to address the membership or to hold informal discussions. InterAction also presented a forum for

other senior United Nations agency officials, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNDP Administrator, the WFP Executive Director, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children in Conflict, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Internally Displaced Persons.

A working group of the Disaster Response Committee collaborated closely with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, WFP, UNICEF and UNDP in drawing public and donor attention to the need to mobilize hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance for the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during the extended food crisis in their country. Officials of United Nations agencies serving in Pyongyang and policy makers from United Nations agency headquarters were frequent participants in the working group's monthly meetings. Pressure from working group members helped generate and sustain very high levels of United States Government support for relief activities in a country with which the United States has no diplomatic relations.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), InterAction participated in both the quarterly principals meetings and the more frequent IASC-working group sessions, both in the United States and Europe. Between meetings there was regular telephonic contact between InterAction's CEO and the heads of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNICEF and WFP. Topics addressed included both the crises of the moment and matters of more general policy. The InterAction CEO made a presentation during the humanitarian segment of the 1998 session of the Council.

The InterAction Disaster Response Committee worked with United Nations agencies on development of training curricula in health in complex emergencies and in non-governmental organization security. Representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP participated in these processes as students and/or presenters. The Committee negotiated, together with the International Council for Voluntary Action, an agreement with UNHCR governing the rate at which UNHCR now compensates its implementing partners for their headquarters overhead costs.

When the Secretary-General ordered a review of the United Nations disaster response institutional architecture, the Disaster Response Committee presented recommendations which the Secretary-General invited InterAction's President to discuss with him personally. The Committee also pressed the United States Government to support its recommendations.

4. Development Innovations and Networks

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Development Innovations and Networks (IRED) is a global network of over 1,000 grass-roots organizations and networks in Africa, Asia, Latin America and southern Europe. IRED has regional offices in Africa (Harare, Niamey, Lagos and Bukavu), Europe and the Mediterranean (Rome), Asia (Bangladesh) and Latin America (El Salvador). The head office is in Geneva.

IRED's major areas of intervention are in economic empowerment, local development and governance and policy analysis and advocacy. Its major programmes are information collection and dissemination, policy dialogues and capacity-building. These activities are realized through training programmes, publication of tools for action, and exchange programmes.

Activities with the United Nations system

IRED has permanent representation in Geneva and Rome. New York is covered by the board members and representatives who attended the following meetings:

Social Summit. IRED participated in national and regional preparatory sessions for the Social Summit. IRED was a member of the popular coalition coordinated by UNRISD. Three members of the General Assembly of delegates attended the NGO Forum in Copenhagen.

Committee on Social Development. A representative from IRED participated in the February 1997 session and made a presentation on efforts in Africa to fight social exclusion. The paper was delivered in a pre-session meeting at which representatives from United Nations agencies were present.

Committee on the Status of Women. A representative of IRED was a member of the Zimbabwe NGO Caucus that prepared a shadow report on CEDAW in 1996-1997.

Habitat II. IRED sent two representatives to the Habitat II conference in Istanbul. The representatives also participated in the preparatory conferences in Nairobi and Johannesburg. IRED was a member of the Africa Caucus on Habitat. Two members of the IRED network participated in the best practices exhibition on human settlements which was part of the conference.

UNCTAD. IRED cooperates with UNCTAD on a number of issues, particularly those related to small enterprise development, the least developed countries and gender and trade.

Representatives of IRED attend regular meetings of UNCTAD.

In 1996, IRED hosted and facilitated a two-day preparatory meeting for 30 African non-governmental organization representatives. The meeting aimed at familiarizing African non-governmental organizations with trade and development issues. IRED also facilitated the international non-governmental organization preparations and was a steering committee member for the NGO Forum held in conjunction with UNCTAD in South Africa.

World Food Summit. IRED was selected to the international NGO Advisory Group for the World Food Summit, with responsibility for ensuring participation by farmers' organizations and other groups from the South in the regional and global processes.

Three representatives from IRED participated in the preparatory meetings in Rome, Burkina Faso and Bangkok. A representative of IRED was the rapporteur of the preparatory meeting in Burkina Faso.

Representatives from each region of IRED were present in Rome for the World Food Summit. They participated in the Rural Women's Conference, NGO Forum, Farmers' Forum and the official conference.

Fourth World Conference on Women. A representative from IRED was selected to be a member of the Zimbabwe Government-sponsored national preparatory committee. IRED organized workshops at the local level and compiled the Zimbabwe NGO report to the Conference. Three partners of IRED participated in the NGO Forum in Beijing.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IRED cooperated with the following United Nations bodies:

FAO. IRED representatives in Rome attend regular meetings with FAO. IRED participated in the sessions of the Committee on Food Security in 1995, 1996 and 1997. IRED has also been engaged in discussions on FAO policy with regard to civil society.

IRED has implemented two projects in Africa, with cooperation from FAO. These projects seek to strengthen the voices of farmers' organizations in policy-making at the national and regional levels. In collaboration with FAO, IRED was selected to be the lead agency for capacity-building of farmers' organizations in the Sahel.

IFAD. IRED is a member of the IFAD-NGO Advisory Committee. IRED is also a member of the Popular Coalition against Poverty and Hunger. In Africa the regional office for East and Southern Africa is implementing a study on farmers' organizations with the support of IFAD.

WTO. IRED participated in the second ministerial meeting of WTO, held in Geneva in May 1998. The secretariat in Geneva prepared briefing notes from meetings organized by WTO. The notes were circulated to members of the IRED network and to other key networks which collaborate with IRED. The total distribution is over 500 non-governmental organizations in the North and South.

UNDP. IRED cooperates at the global level on programmes of poverty reduction. From 1993 to 1995 IRED collaborated with the United Nations Office for Project Services of the Secretariat on an Africa-wide project of capacity-building and access to credit for non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations. IRED also participated in UNDP meetings to develop a policy on civil society. Partners of IRED participate in several UNDP programmes at the national level — for example, the Poverty Forum and the Participatory Learning Network. In June 1997, IRED facilitated an African regional meeting for UNDP on participatory approaches to empowerment.

5. International Association Against Torture

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

The International Association Against Torture (AICT) was formed to address the issues of torture, particularly as carried out in the Americas during the dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s. It has evolved to address not only the human rights violations of torture but also to further research and advocacy on the theme of racism and development. AICT examines the many-sided effects of globalization and focuses discussion around foreign debt in light of the impact it has upon the economic and social rights of the citizens of the countries with a large debt. It works on the campaign for respect for international law. It monitors prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners. It examines the historical impact and current effects of racism as a continuing global human rights violation.

Participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies

Commission on Human Rights (1995-1998). AICT attended every session and presented oral interventions on the subjects of torture and detention; independence of the judiciary; the death penalty and summary execution; human rights violations around the world; racism and racial discrimination; right to development; economic, social and cultural rights; minorities; integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective; right to self-determination; violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world; effective functioning of human rights mechanisms.

Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1995-1998). AICT attended every session and presented oral interventions on the subjects of detention/torture; independence of the judiciary; the death penalty; human rights violations around the world; racism and racial discrimination; right to development; minorities; rights of women; right to self-determination.

Third Committee of the General Assembly. AICT has regularly attended the Third Committee meetings of the General Assembly and has lobbied for resolutions relevant to its areas of concern.

Commission on Sustainable Development. AICT has attended the New York-based sessions of the Commission.

Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). AICT sent a delegation to the Beijing Conference and participated in the NGO Forum as well as the regular Conference itself.

Seminar on Racism (Geneva, September 1993). The Vice-International Secretary-General of AICT was a panellist on the topic of "Racism and racial discrimination" in a seminar co-sponsored by the Geneva NGO Subcommittee on Racism and the Centre for Human Rights.

Other relevant activities

AICT took the following action in implementation of United Nations resolutions:

(a) Organized meetings in the United States and the Caribbean on United Nations resolutions on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination/World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(b) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat;

(c) Meetings with officials of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva and New York, on work for the World Conference against Racism;

(d) As Bureau member of the International NGO Committee on Human Rights (International NGOs with Consultative Status), the International Secretary-General of AICT organized, moderated and made a presentation at a programme in November 1998 to discuss preparations for the United Nations World Conference against Racism;

(e) In 1997, AICT, having lobbied for several years for an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution to visit the United States, organized invitations for him to visit several sites, once the United States had extended the invitation. AICT co-sponsored the only public hearing held for the Special Rapporteur when he visited the United States, in October 1997. At a day-long hearing held at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, representatives from national organizations

(e.g., the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty), regional and local community-based organizations (e.g., Coalition against Anti-Asian Violence, Mothers Against Policy Brutality) and individual representatives of prisoners on death row or victims of police killings presented information to the Special Rapporteur;

(f) In 1997, the International Secretary-General was a member of an international group of jurists who were legal observers at the trial of the leadership of the Herri-Batasuna in Madrid, Spain.

6. International Fellowship of Reconciliation

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

Since its founding in 1919, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) has been committed to active non-violence as a way of life and as a means of change. Its activities for reconciliation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution range from the interpersonal to the international. IFOR works through its member branches and affiliates in over 60 countries. Most spiritual traditions are represented. Since 1995, IFOR has increased its membership, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

During the period 1995-1998 IFOR devoted itself primarily to supporting a number of international (including United Nations and other agencies) efforts for non-violence and peace, in particular the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates' Appeal campaign to request United Nations endorsement of a decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world, and of an IFOR programme to promote a culture of non-violence. It was a time of expansion not only of IFOR membership worldwide but also of IFOR core programmes, specifically those on non-violence education and training, and women peacemakers. Many important publications, particularly the volume *People Building Peace*, were initiated during the period.

Participation in the work of the Council

IFOR's representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna continue to maintain an active link with United Nations bodies, to act as a conduit for information to the IFOR network worldwide, and to promote the message of non-violence. Pierre Marchand, representing the Committee of the Appeal of the Nobel Peace Laureates, along with IFOR members and IFOR United Nations representatives, contacted many ambassadors at the United Nations in New York to encourage the Council's endorsement of the proposed United Nations decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world.

Cooperation with United Nations agencies and bodies

Since 1996, Pierre Marchand (from the IFOR affiliate Partage avec les enfants du monde, in France) and Henriette Tourne (from Movement international de la reconciliation, the IFOR branch in France) have acted as IFOR representatives at UNESCO. There was increased cooperation with UNESCO during the period 1995-1998, particularly during the long preparation process for the May 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) conference. IFOR and UNESCO forged a closer working relationship as a result of joint efforts to persuade the HAP Coordinating Committee to accept "Root causes of war/culture of peace" as one of the four major conference themes.

Other relevant activities

United Nations resolutions

After IFOR's 1996 quadrennial Council meeting (of representatives from all IFOR branches, affiliates and groups), IFOR members (including Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire) initiated the Nobel Peace Laureates' Appeal campaign to ask United Nations endorsement for a decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world. IFOR's strong support of this campaign garnered many thousands of individual supporters the world over. IFOR's international secretariat and United States branch co-sponsored a press conference with the Nobel Laureates in New York City in 1997 to promote the decade. IFOR's secretariat, its United Nations representatives and IFOR branches in the United States and France were particularly active in making contact

with United Nations and UNESCO officials and staff, and with accredited non-governmental organizations in New York, Paris and Geneva regarding the proposed decade. IFOR provided information on the Nobel Peace Laureates' Appeal in nine languages around the world. Through UNHCR, Appeal information was disseminated in refugee camps in Pakistan and some other countries. The United Nations official proclamation of the International Decade, in December 1998, has inspired IFOR groups to plan programmes and initiatives.

Over the past four years, IFOR has developed a Culture of Non-violence programme, and has continually striven to make active non-violence a key element of international cooperative statements and efforts.

IFOR has expanded its publication efforts in order to reflect the concerns of the movement, particularly in regard to the International Decade. Through the increased use of electronic communication over the past four years, IFOR has increased its ability to exchange information and forge links with non-governmental organizations, partner organizations in the peace, human rights, indigenous rights, and women's movements, and with grass-roots groups in every part of the world. In this way, IFOR has been able to promote information about, and activities related to, the Decade.

United Nations consultations

IFOR has welcomed the many opportunities provided by the United Nations to share information and expertise and further its work on crucial issues such as peacemaking and peace-building. IFOR accredited expert witnesses to testify before the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice regional workshops on firearms regulation for the purposes of crime prevention and public safety, in New Delhi, Arusha, São Paulo and Ljubljana. IFOR was represented at the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 1998.

In 1996, IFOR delegations addressed the Commission on Human Rights, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the topic of military sexual slavery. In 1997, IFOR conferred with delegates regarding reparations for "comfort women".

From 1995 to 1998, the IFOR representative to the United Nations in Geneva attended a number of sessions and submitted various statements on IFOR's behalf. These included statements on conscientious objection to military service and the right to asylum; the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world; wartime sexual slavery during the Second World War; sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime.

IFOR made a statement on the issue of discrimination to the Commission on Human Rights Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fiftieth session. IFOR was also represented at the international non-governmental organization meeting on the question of Palestine.

Preparation of reports/papers

Acting upon a request by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, IFOR canvassed its membership in order to submit a report on racism in January 1998. By request, IFOR's Women Peacemakers Programme (WPP) supplied the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with 160 copies of its annual International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament pack, which were distributed among United Nations staff. In addition, the WPP responded to requests for information from the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. In 1998, WPP material was provided to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Other

IFOR increased its contact with UNESCO. IFOR's general secretary, IFOR United Nations representatives and/or other IFOR staff met with UNESCO officials in Geneva (1997) and Paris (1998).

Discussions were initiated with United Nations officials in March 1998 regarding the installation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva of the art exhibit "50 Years of Silence", on women survivors of military sexual slavery.

7. Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA) was founded in 1961 through a series of international conferences in Japan, attended by participants from all over the world. The participants discussed how to achieve peace in the world, and agreed to set up an international body (OISCA) to implement programmes and projects in order to advance the cause of peace. The aims and objectives of the organization were initially set as follows: promote agricultural, forestry, marine and industrial development in harmony with nature, and improve the livelihoods of people; promote education and training in building human character, cultivating the universal human spirit, and encouraging such education among children and youth; respect for all different traditions, cultures and religions of the world; cooperate with other organizations and individuals sharing similar aims and objectives; other forms of activities essential for the attainment of the aims and objectives, including holding of international conferences and putting forward appeals.

In 1996, the OISCA Paraguay chapter was founded; in 1997, the Fiji chapter; in 1998, the Azerbaijan chapter. OISCA now has chapters, offices, members and affiliates in 82 countries, for a total of 53,733 members/supporters.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 1997 and 1998, OISCA worked with the World Food Programme in Kerala, southern India, to provide drinking water facilities to 55 schools and promote environmental education for the benefit of school children.

OISCA representatives attended the following United Nations meetings: UNDP Regional Millennium Meeting for Asia and the Pacific (Seoul, December 1998); UNIFAD/NGO consultation (Cairo, December 1998); UNIFAD/NGO consultation (Rome, October 1997); International Conference on Poverty and Starvation (UNIFAD, Brussels, November 1995); and many other United Nations seminars, workshops, consultations etc., held in New York and Tokyo.

OISCA organized its fourteenth Asia/Pacific Youth Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 21 to 24 November 1996. The Prime Minister of Nepal participated as the guest of honour. Officers of ESCAP, ILO and FAO based in Bangkok, as well as those in Kathmandu, took part in the Forum as resource persons. The Forum focused on water and food security.

In 1995, OISCA dispatched its first study mission, in cooperation with UNDP, to Myanmar, and as a result established the OISCA/Myanmar Agro-Forestry Training Centre in Myanmar.

Human resources development projects

During the period from 1995 to 1998, OISCA received in Japan, a total of 653 trainees (mainly for one-year courses) from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uruguay, and Viet Nam. OISCA runs a total of 21 training centres in Bangladesh (2), Indonesia (3), Japan (5), Malaysia (2), Myanmar (1), Palau (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (5) and Thailand (1). OISCA training programmes were conducted annually at the facilities of partner agencies in Fiji. At the training centres and in programmes in countries other than Japan, a total of 2,998 trainees attended programmes lasting from 6 to 10 months. A total of 651 persons were trained in Viet Nam in four-month courses in car repair, mechanics, electrical repair, dress making and carpentry.

Love Green tree-planting programme

OISCA promotes tree planting activities under its "Love Green" programme in various countries. During the period 1995-1998 OISCA planted a total of 1,951,006 trees on 1,072 hectares of land in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Children's forest programme (environmental education)

In cooperation with schools, OISCA promotes environmental education for schoolchildren and tree-

planting to create school forests, involving children, teachers, parents and members of the local communities. By the end of 1998, a total of 2,011 schools were registered as participating schools.

Education

OISCA donated school buildings and facilities to the following countries: Viet Nam, Myanmar and Philippines. OISCA operates a high school and a college in Japan in order to train and prepare youth for working in the field of international cooperation. In addition to the ordinary curriculum, active youth exchange programmes with other countries are organized to enable Japanese students and those of other countries to visit each other. A total of 461 students graduated from these schools during the period 1995-1998. OISCA also operates the Moonlight Astronomical Observatory, an educational institute with an astronomical observatory and an Earth science museum in Shizuoka, Japan. The goal is to educate schoolchildren about the universe, earth and ecology. In its environmental education programme, the Observatory accommodated a total of 56,000 children for overnight and two-day programmes (usually held over weekends). OISCA helped to set up 24 day-care centres in the Philippines, accommodating about 1,200 children. OISCA operates six kindergartens in China, accommodating about 1,500 children. OISCA/Japan organizes outdoor camps for children in which they learn about the environment and traditions, and engage in farm work such as digging potatoes, planting rice etc.

Relief activities

OISCA dispatched food, clothing, medicines, and vegetable seeds to Bangladesh in December 1998 when the country was hit by severe floods, and millions of people suffered from the natural calamity.

OISCA mobilized 35 volunteers for about 90 days to help victims of the Great Hanshin earthquake that hit Kobe and its vicinity in Japan in January 1995. They nursed victims and distributed cooked meals to the victims every day.

The OISCA Papua New Guinea Training Centre provided assistance (food and shelter) to refugees in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, when most of the areas in the city were blanketed with the ash of the volcano that erupted in October 1994. About 300 refugees in total stayed at the Centre for almost one year, until the end of 1995.

During the economic crisis in Indonesia, OISCA Indonesia worked actively to distribute food to needy people.

Health

Awareness programmes for young people were conducted by OISCA India and OISCA Bangkok, in India and Thailand, respectively, particularly on the prevention of AIDS.

Women in development

The OISCA Training Centre for Rural Women, in Bangladesh, is training young women in such fields as vegetable gardening, cooking, dress-making, health, hygiene and family planning. Some 800 women benefited from its long (one year) and short (one month) courses. The OISCA Shikoku Training Centre in Japan also specializes in the training of young women.

Income-generating activities

In order to help people in developing countries increase their incomes (in addition to helping them achieve increased food production) OISCA is working to develop local industries. In the Philippines, a sericulture project was implemented, with the participation of 50 farming households. As a result of its initial success, achieved at the end of 1998, the project is being expanded in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Development education

OISCA actively organizes lectures, seminars and other meetings for citizens in Japan, to enhance their awareness of the importance of continued efforts by Japan to make positive contributions to the international community in spite of the economic recession. During the four-year period, a total of 184 such meetings took place in Japan, with a total of some 12,000 citizens in local communities. OISCA has, as one of its affiliates, the Association of Japanese MPs Supporting OISCA Activities, comprised of some 230 Diet members. They have periodic meetings with OISCA officers to discuss effective international cooperation. OISCA provides the MPs with

information about various developmental issues in developing countries.

Sustainable agricultural development

At OISCA agricultural training centres OISCA technicians study and share information on organic farming methods. At the OISCA Training Centres in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Mindanao (Philippines), as well as those in Japan, farming methods that do not depend on chemicals or chemical fertilizers are being established and taught.

8. Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH) was organized in 1975 by various social, political, intellectual and religious sectors and trade unions in Argentina, in response to the extremely difficult situation the country was going through in terms of attacks on fundamental rights in Argentina and neighbouring countries. Because of its multisectoral and multiparty composition, APDH became a place for different people to meet and organize. Once democracy was restored, APDH's reputation as a defender of human rights, with no political affiliation, allowed it to play a significant role in the clarification of the immediate past, the reconstruction of the collective experience and the filing and classification of documentation that would contribute to those ends.

Goals

The goals of APDH are:

(a) To promote human rights and information about them, in accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to support the international documentation that refers to this question and the Constitution of Argentina;

(b) To play an active role in the upkeeping of the democratic life of the country within a pluralistic society;

(c) To research, investigate and evaluate data and information on the national and international situation in relation to human rights;

(d) To cooperate actively with political authorities and other social institutions and to promote human rights;

(e) To denounce all violations of human rights, whatever the agents of such violations;

(f) To make known the conclusions and studies of both APDH and other institutions or people who defend human rights;

(g) To assist all victims of human rights violations and their families;

(h) To coordinate action with other institutions involved in the defence and promotion of human rights;

(i) To promote education and research into human rights and their role and place in modern society;

(j) To fulfil the objectives emerging from respect for both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights;

(k) To defend the development of the people in understanding all that is essential for the true implementation of human rights in the world.

Participation in conferences/meetings organized by United Nations and other international bodies

Avila, Spain. July. Escuela Nacional de Policía en España (Spanish National School for Police). A course for Latin American police, oral and written presentation on "application of human rights in Latin America".

Santiago de Chile. December. A seminar on the effects of impunity in democratic process. Oral and written presentation on the psycho-social effects of impunity. Organized by the World Council of Churches and Latin American Service of Peace and Justice, together with Chilean non-governmental organizations.

1997

Geneva, Switzerland. March/April. Participation in the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. Two written presentations: "The indigenous situation in north Argentina" and "Basic questions related to the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom in the River Plate today".

Geneva, Switzerland. March. Participation in the meeting of the Committee for Non-governmental Organizations (CONGO).

Madrid, Spain. April. Carlos III University. Participation in a seminar on criminalization of economic, social and cultural rights. Organized by Carlos III University and sponsored by the United Nations, American Association of Jurists and the Department for International Elections of the Carlos III University.

Asunción, Paraguay. December. Participation in a seminar on policy and the role of non-governmental organizations organized by the United Nations and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Paraguay. Written presentation. Book published.

1998

Geneva, Switzerland. March/April. Participation in Commission of Human Rights Committee. Two written presentations: "Violation of human rights and the problem of impunity" and "The question of fundamental freedom from the perspective of the Southern Cone".

Geneva, Switzerland. June. Participation in a meeting organized by the World Council of Churches, to prepare a document to be distributed worldwide on the situation of human rights in the world. Various oral presentations.

Washington, D.C., United States of America. November. Participation in the public hearings organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Nuremberg, Germany. The co-president of APDH participated as a member of the jury for the Human Rights Prize, organized by the Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg.

Paris, France. December. The co-president of APDH was invited to participate in the memorial celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1999 (January to June)

Geneva, Switzerland. March/April. Participation in the annual meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. Written presentations: "Violation of fundamental rights: update of the situation" and "The protection of economic, social and cultural rights and globalization".

Berlin, Germany. June. Conference at the University of Berlin, organized by the Public School of Lawyers.

Other relevant activities

National

During the years 1996-1999, APDH promoted training in human rights. Its public pronouncements are usually acknowledged by the media, and it is a common practice to invite members of APDH to take part in radio and television programmes. Moreover, APDH has made public statements denouncing or questioning particular situations — for example, the war in the ex-Yugoslavia, the bombing of the Embassy of Israel, the law trials against Latin American dictators in European courts, and the conflict between India and Pakistan.

APDH has a special contract with the University of Buenos Aires to train students of law, political science and international relations in human rights cases. There is a similar contract with the Municipal Government of the city of Buenos Aires to train auxiliary councillors.,

APDH is in permanent contact with the local offices of the United Nations in Argentina, particularly with the Public Information Centre for Argentina and Uruguay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and UNESCO. APDH has been part of many campaigns, special events, round tables held by those organizations. The co-president of APDH received the 1988 UNESCO prize for his long history in the defence of public education and human rights. During the years 1998-1999, APDH reached agreement with the Inter-American Bank for Development to carry out a project on assistance and orientation for the third age. Consisting of courses in assistance and orientation for older people, it is being carried out in many areas of the country. It is hoped that a book will result.

9. SOS-Kinderdorf International

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Objectives

SOS-Kinderdorf International is a private, non-political and non-denominational social welfare organization which has as its principal objective the improvement of the quality of life of children and youth, regardless of their race, culture, religion, gender or social status. It is the umbrella organization of more than 130 affiliated national associations of SOS-Children's Villages all over the world.

SOS-Children's Villages provide the children entrusted to their care with a new and permanent home and a profound education. An SOS-Children's Village typically consists of 10-20 family houses where a well-trained mother takes care of 5-10 girls and boys of various ages (siblings are not separated). SOS-Children's Villages are built with various ancillary facilities such as kindergartens, youth homes, Hermann Gmeiner schools, vocational training centres and production centres and Hermann Gmeiner social and medical centres, which are designed to help prepare children and youngsters for a life of independence. They are also open to children and adolescents from the neighbourhood and contribute to a good integration of SOS-Children's Villages into the local community.

The first SOS-Children's Village was built at Imst, Tyrol (Austria) in 1949 by the Austrian, Hermann Gmeiner. Today there exist 400 SOS-Children's Villages in which about 40,000 children grow up. More than 500,000 persons are taken care of in the various SOS facilities. Apart from these manifold facilities, SOS-Kinderdorf International also runs very effective emergency relief programmes. SOS-Kinderdorf International is able to offer immediate humanitarian aid wherever exceptional situations (e.g., natural disasters, acts of aggression and war) make it necessary.

Publications

SOS-Kinderdorf International regularly issues the following publications in English, French, Spanish and German:

(a) SOS Children's Villages Facts and Figures (information folder, published annually;

(b) SOS Children's Village Facilities: Aims and Concept (information folder);

(c) Progress Report (published annually);

(d) *SOS Journal* (quarterly, for SOS co-workers and friends);

(e) *SOS-Kinderdorf-Forum* (magazine for international exchange of information and ideas on socio-educational, psychological, socio-political matters, published twice a year);

(f) *Kindheit und Trauma* (Childhood and Trauma), published in German (1997) and English (1999);

(g) *Afrika's Kinder* (Africa's Children), published in German and English (1995).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

SOS-Kinderdorf International supports special programmes, initiatives and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council that are of relevance and concern to the work of the organization, such as children's rights, human rights, literacy, education, health, eradication of poverty and human settlements. In these fields the organization has made valuable contributions to improving the social situation of not only children and youth but also of destitute people in general. In response to the UNESCO campaign "Education for All", SOS-Kinderdorf International has constructed 41 new SOS Hermann Gmeiner schools within the past five years, offering good basic education to about 66,000 children and youngsters. Over the same period 20 new SOS youth facilities, 64 new SOS kindergartens, 12 new SOS vocational training centres, 40 new SOS social centres and 12 new SOS medical centres have been erected to assure the well-being of vulnerable members of society. More than 500,000 people profit from about 1,600 SOS-Children's Village facilities and 10 SOS emergency relief programmes all over the world.

The organization has representatives at the United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The representatives work closely together with their local United Nations offices and participate in United Nations conferences and events. The organization was represented at the Fourth World Conference for Women (1995); at Habitat II (1996); at a UNESCO expert

meeting on sexual abuse of children (1999). Representatives of the organization regularly attend meetings of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, the Vienna NGO Committees on the Family and Development, the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) and the annual DPI/NGO conferences in New York. The organization was actively involved in the drafting of various statements for submission to the Commission for Social Development and in the activities and work of the above-mentioned NGO committees. Furthermore, the organization regularly exchanges information and reports with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNCHS, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP and various NGO committees.

At the field level, there have been several contacts and close cooperation with representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and UNESCO in Kazakhstan, for example, the organization chaired a seminar on welfare schemes for Central Asian non-governmental organizations, which was organized with UNICEF and UNDP, UNHCR and SOS-Kinderdorf International worked closely together in Albania to improve the situation of the Kosovo refugees. Fifty abandoned, orphaned children were admitted to the SOS-Children's Village in Tirana. In addition, two buildings were bought and restored to give shelter to 700 refugee families with children. In 1998, UNICEF and SOS-Kinderdorf International coordinated their emergency aid in Nicaragua. Since 1995, there have been close contacts between the organization's representative in Panama and the representative of UNHCS, resulting in a common project to build three houses for poor families there. The organization's representative in the Central American region attended many meetings there, including a seminar on child protection, organized by UNICEF in 1996; a conference on childhood integral protection, sponsored by UNFPA and UNICEF in 1998 in Panama; a seminar organized by UNHCHR, UNESCO and UNICEF in 1997 in Guatemala; and actively participated in the revision and production of a report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the Commission on Human Rights in 1998.

Other activities

In June 1998, SOS-Kinderdorf International held its sixteenth General Assembly at Imst, Tyrol (Austria) where the guidelines for SOS-Children's Village work for the next five years were drawn up. Apart from several training seminars for SOS co-workers from all over the world, the Hermann-Gmeiner-Academy of SOS-Kinderdorf International organized two international conferences — one in 1995 in Croatia, on "Traumatic experiences of children", with 200 participants from 13 countries; and one in 1998 in Estonia, on "Conflicts: a human phenomenon", with 270 participants from 26 countries. During the reporting period the organization extended its work and projects geographically to the following countries or areas: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, French Polynesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the occupied Palestinian territories, Taiwan Province of China and Yemen.

In 1999 the organization celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In recognition of its outstanding contributions to social peace in the world, it was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1999 by the Government of Austria.

The United Nations Secretary-General received the President of SOS-Kinderdorf International in June 1999 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary, to discuss matters of mutual concern.

10. Temple of Understanding

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The aims and purposes of the Temple of Understanding (TOU) are the worldwide promotion of interfaith dialogue and education, to achieve understanding and harmony among the people of the world's religions, and to work towards a "spiritual" United Nations. The Temple was founded in 1960 in response to article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and has tried to provide the United Nations with conferences and workshops on the full meaning of this freedom. Through its educational programmes, the Temple offers the perspective of different religious traditions for understanding pressing issues before the United Nations.

TOU has an India chapter with seven centres and a chapter in Argentina. The chapter in Argentina and five of the centres in India are new; no substantial changes in sources of funding; not affiliated to another NGO already in consultative status.

Participation in United Nations conferences

World Summit for Social Development, March 1995, Copenhagen. The Executive Director, the United Nations representative and four members of the Board of Directors attended and presented a paper, "Toward deeper values and fuller development".

Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, Beijing. The Executive Director, Vice-Chair of the Board and three delegates attended and presented a paper on women's spiritual values.

Habitat II, 1996, Istanbul. The United Nations representative headed the delegation consisting of the Board Chair and several members of the Board of Directors.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

On 21 October 1995, after a full year of planning and consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary, TOU sponsored an interfaith service and a two-day symposium on visions for the twenty-first century.

On 25 April 1997, TOU offered its Interfaith Celebration of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations, welcoming the new Secretary-General and the Permanent Representative of the United States. Representatives of 18 different faith traditions led prayers and readings.

In September 1998 the annual Interfaith Celebration of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations was attended by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, United Nations Parliamentarians and senior staff.

Other relevant activities

In 1995, TOU entered a contract for $60,000 with the United Nations to prepare the celebration in honour of the fiftieth anniversary.

On 14 February 1996 at the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II, TOU gave a presentation on the experience of interfaith collaboration in the urban community.

On 30 January 1998 "A season for non-violence" was launched in the Trusteeship Council; 2,000 people attended.

On 2 April 1998 a concluding event of "A season for non-violence" was held at St. Bartholomew's Church. The first Gandhi/King Award was presented to the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

On 16 October 1998 an interfaith service was held, in collaboration with the World Conference for Religion and Peace, to observe efforts to eradicate poverty on the part of UNDP.

TOU participated in preparatory committees of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women.

On 10 March 1998 "Women's voices in the new democracies" was presented, with the UNDP Office of Development Studies and the United States Mission to the United Nations.

On 30 March 1998 TOU held an interfaith seder with the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations.

On 14 April 1998 "Global changes at the turn of the century", a discussion with the President of the United Nations Foundation and former United States Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs, was held.

On 21 April 1998 "Human development challenges in the Russian Federation" a discussion with the Dean and Faculty of the School of Economics, Moscow State University, and authors of the UNDP *Report on Human Development* was held.

On 22 April 1998 "New perspectives on global cooperation at the turn of the century" was presented, with the senior adviser of UNDP.

On 21 October 1998 "Religion and ecology: discovering our common ground", sponsored with UNEP and other religiously affiliated organizations, was presented.

On 27 October 1998 "Youth connections: sowing seeds of peace", a panel discussion with the youth task force of "A season for non-violence", was held.

11. Transnational Radical Party

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a non-violent international political organization founded in 1955.

Since its affiliation with the Council, TRP has followed issues related to human rights, international drug trafficking, international criminal law and linguistic rights at sessions of several United Nations Commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

Since 1998, TRP has been a member of the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and recently was among the founders of the New York Non-governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. TRP is also a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. During the past four years TRP has collaborated with several other non-governmental organizations promoting the establishment of informal networks and coalitions to better educate the public on the work of the United Nations and to optimize joint activities regarding specific issues. In 1995, TRP was among the founders of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, and in 1997, it promoted the creation of the Coalition for an International Language. Both coalitions produce newsletters and participate in United Nations activities related to their mandates.

Participation in United Nations Commissions

Commission on Human Rights

At the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions TRP delivered written and oral statements on a variety of items, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the rights of the child; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; indigenous issues; and conscientious objection to military service.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

At the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, TRP delivered written or oral statements on the following items: the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; freedom of movement: population displacements; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the realization of the right to development; the human rights of women; the human rights of indigenous peoples; protection of minorities; administration of justice and the human rights of detainees; and elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief.

Commission on the Status of Women

At the forty-second session TRP delivered statements on the Beijing Platform for Action and women in armed conflict.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

TRP presented written and oral statements on the following: measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; promotion of judicial cooperation; the fight against money-laundering; and the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations

TRP submitted a proposal for an agenda item on eventual experimentation of an international auxiliary language at the June 1996 session.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and forums

TRP sent accredited representatives to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) (3-14 June 1996).

TRP circulated literature on its United Nations-related activities to the fiftieth and fifty-first annual DPI/NGO Conferences.

At the special session of the General Assembly on Drugs, TRP delivered a statement. It also took active part in all non-governmental activities such as panel discussions and round tables on drug-related issues and distributed a 20-page briefing paper.

TRP attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Other relevant activities

To better achieve its objectives TRP has launched several ad hoc campaigns aimed at targeting civil society, the media, and decision makers all over the world. Its major United Nations-related campaigns were "No Peace Without Justice", for issues concerning the establishment of an effective system of international criminal justice, and "Hands Off Cain", for the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on an international moratorium of capital executions. The final stages of the "No Peace Without Justice" campaign were a series of international conferences held in various capitals of the world to urge international support for the proposed court. In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in the work of the Conference on an International Criminal Court, inexpensive fares and special accommodation rates were found for delegates from the least developed countries and some 30 young experts in international law and international humanitarian law were enabled to participate in the various working groups. During the Conference, TRP organized a series of public events.

TRP operates a web site (www.radicalparty.org) containing the latest action alerts, TRP's position papers and news on the different issues set by its congressional motions.